

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently Amended) A container receiving unit for use in an apparatus for preparing a beverage, said container receiving unit comprising:

a receiving space for receiving a container arranged for holding a beverage base material,

a reservoir for containing the beverage,

a distribution system, comprising an inlet connected to said reservoir, at least two outlets for dispensing the beverage, and a liquid flow path, extending from the inlet to the outlets,

wherein the liquid flow path comprises a two-dimensional V-shaped restriction obstruction for evenly distributing the beverage over the at least two outlets by reducing the speed of the beverage flowing from the reservoir to the at least two outlets during operation.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3.( Currently Amended) The container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ~~restriction~~ obstruction comprises at least one wall extending transversally to the liquid flow path.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5.(Previously Presented) A container receiving unit for use in an apparatus for preparing a beverage, said container receiving unit comprising:

- a receiving space for receiving a container arranged for holding a beverage base material;

- a reservoir for containing the beverage;

- a distribution system comprising an inlet connected to said reservoir, at least two outlets for dispensing the beverage, and a liquid flow path, extending from the inlet to the outlets;

wherein the liquid flow path comprises two opposing triangular walls extending transversally to the liquid flow path for reducing the speed of the beverage flowing from the reservoir to the outlets during operation.

6.(Previously Presented) A container receiving unit for use in an apparatus for preparing a beverage, said container receiving unit comprising:

- a receiving space for receiving a container arranged for holding a beverage base material;

a reservoir for containing the beverage;

a distribution system comprising an inlet connected to said reservoir, at least two outlets for dispensing the beverage, and a liquid flow path, extending from the inlet to the outlets;

wherein the liquid flow path comprises a central transport channel discharging into a buffer chamber via a restriction in the liquid flow path, said buffer chamber discharging into the outlets.

7.(Previously Presented) The container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein a further restriction is provided between the buffer chamber and the outlets.

8.(Previously Presented) The container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein a surface is provided between the buffer chamber and each outlet, which surface slants towards the outlet.

9.(Previously Presented) An apparatus for preparing a beverage, comprising a container receiving unit as claimed in claim 1.

10.(Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a water unit for supplying hot water via a transport channel to the receiving space.

11.(New) A container receiving unit for use in an apparatus for preparing a beverage, said container receiving unit comprising:

a receiving space for receiving a container arranged for holding a beverage base material,

a reservoir,

a distribution system, comprising an inlet connected to said reservoir, at least two outlets, and a liquid flow path, extending from the inlet to the outlets,

wherein the liquid flow path comprises a wall extending transversally to the liquid flow path.